Decrease in use of pesticides

†2408. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the increase in cultivation of biotech crops the dependence on the use of pesticides has come down;

(b) whether it has benefited the cultivators of BT cotton a lot; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The increase in cultivation of Bt. Cotton hybrids has resulted in reduction of pesticidal sprays for the control of bollworms due to which farmers have had to incur lower expenditure on pesticides. The cultivation of Bt. Cotton has also resulted in lower crop losses which has led to increase in crop yields to the benefit of the farmers.

Small and marginal farmers

†2409. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase or decrease in the number of marginal farmers and small farmers as per the census of 1990-91 and 2000-01;

(b) the areas of land being cultivated by them as per the latest census, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have initiated steps to enhance income of marginal and small farmers by attracting them towards the occupation of dairy, fishery and poultry farming from the cultivation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) the data for the Agricultural Census 2000-01 is not available at the All India level. The increase in the number of marginal holdings in 1995-96 as compared to 1990-91 was 12.2%. In respect of small holdings the same was 7.7%.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) A Statement showing the State-wise area operated as marginal and small holdings during 1995-96 is annexed (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government implements the following scheme to enable the farmers to supplement their income through diversification into dairying, fisheries and poultry sectors:—

(i) Development of Inland fisheries and Aquaculture-Financial assistance for reclamation/renovation of ponds, seeds, feeds and other inputs, setting up of hatcheries/soil testing lab. etc. is provided.

(ii) Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund Scheme-The Scheme provides for financing of components like establishment of poultry breeding farm, establishment of feed godown, feed mill, feed analytical laboratory, marketing of poultry products, egg grading, packing and storage for export capacity, retain poultry dressing unit, egg/broiler carts for sale of poultry products and central grower unit etc.

(iii) Integrated Dairy Development Project (IDDP) in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Areas on 100% grant-in-aid basis:- The main objectives of the scheme are development of milch cattle; increase in milk production by providing technical input services; procurement, processing and marketing of milk in a cost effective manner; remunerative process to the milk producers; additional employment opportunities; improvement in the social, nutritional and economic status of residents of comparatively more disadvantaged areas.

Statement

Area operated as marginal and small holdings as per Agriculture Census 1995-96

(Area in thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Marginal holdings	Small holdings
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2904	3229
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	26

1	2	3	4
3.	Assam	621	770
4.	Bihar (include Jharkhand)	3871	2018
5.	Goa	20	11
6.	Gujarat	562	1552
7.	Haryana	404	473
8.	Himachal Pradesh	230	21
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	402	258
10.	Karnataka	1248	2480
11.	Kerala	912	350
12.	Madhya Pr. (include Chhattisgarh)	1795	3336
13.	Maharashtra	2087	4606
14.	Manipur	39	67
15.	Meghalaya	35	55
16.	Mizoram	17	36
17.	Nagaland	5	23
18.	Orissa	1064	1522
19.	Punjab	122	240
20.	Rajasthan	780	1566
21.	Sikkim	10	14
22.	Tamil Nadu	2210	1721
23.	Tripura	81	56
24.	Uttar Pr. (including Uttaranchal)	6266	4428
25.	West Bengal	2399	1624
26.	All UTs	25	24
	GRAND TOTAL:	28121	30722